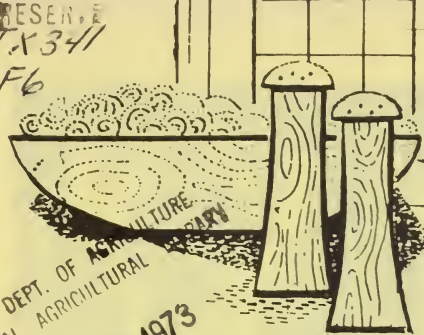


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Food and Home Notes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 18, 1971

CATALOGING

PREP.



Don't buy soft-skinned pumpkins because they do not keep well. They should be stored at temperatures of about 50° to 55° if you plan to keep them very long.

* * *

Why are frozen desserts usually smooth? Freezing makes them smooth because sugar lowers the freezing point of the mixture to be frozen. This factor, plus stirring, makes tiny ice crystals in the food. The result is a smooth and creamy product.

* * *

What spices are considered "sweet?" Allspice, cardamon, cinnamon, cloves, corinader, ginger, nutmeg and mace.

* * *

What is the difference between green beans and wax beans? Wax beans are so called because of their waxy yellow color. Green beans are more common but there is little difference in the nutritional value of the two types of beans.

* * *

Fresh figs are usually very ripe when you buy them. Therefore, they should be put in the coldest part of the refrigerator even if you only plan to keep them a day or two. Try serving them with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

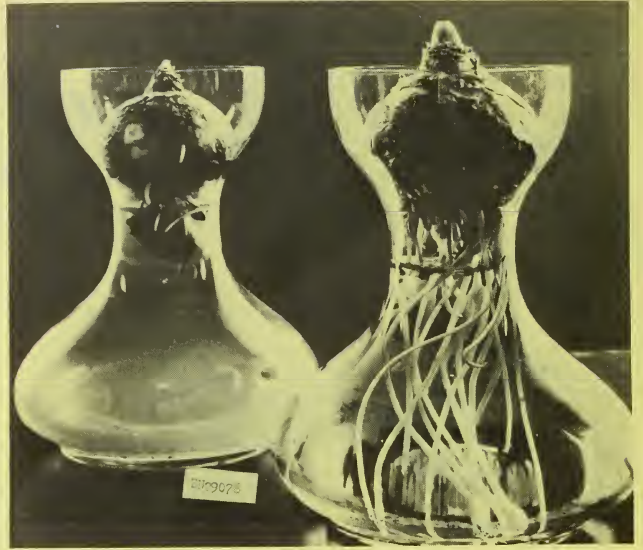
LOOK AHEAD TO '72

Outlook Conference Set—

"U.S. farmers and world trade" will be the central theme of the 1972 National Agricultural Outlook Conference set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for February 22 - 25 in Washington, D.C. Topics to be explored include the expansion of the European Community, changes in monetary relationships, trade relationships with China, and agricultural production in developing countries. The conference, to be presented by leading authorities in agriculture and business will be sponsored by USDA's Economic Research Service and Extension Service. It will be open to the public and there will be no charge to attend.

HYACINTHS

You can force hyacinths in hyacinth glasses. Put enough water in each glass to cover the bottom of the bulb. Keep the bulbs in a cool, dark area (40°F) until you can feel the flower buds under the leaves. Then move the bulbs to a cool, bright room (55° to 65°F) for flowering.



SNOWDROPS

Galanthus (snowdrop) is planted in September or October in clumps of at least 25 bulbs. They grow 6 inches tall, have snowwhite flowers, and bloom at the end of January. Select a planting site that is shaded. Plant bulbs 6 inches deep in light sandy soil and 4 inches deep in heavy clay soil.



A PLACE TO LIVE

Considering new housing—remodeling or even moving to a rented house, apartment or manufactured home? If so, your family preferences should head the list of early planning steps in considering any new housing. But, how do you really evaluate the needs and wants in practical terms?

First, you should assess your family's living pattern and needs in the early stages of planning a new home, according to a new booklet called "Family Housing Handbook," which has been published by the Midwest Plan Service, and official activity of 13 State Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The publication, prepared under the direction of agricultural engineers and consulting specialists, is available through Extension Agricultural Engineers at the 13 institutions.

Among the first things to consider in a house are the activity areas, working area, living and sleeping areas and their relationship to each other. The pattern of traffic through a house should be an important consideration. The traffic should flow in a direct, convenient, and logical way and not interfere with the privacy in other areas of the house. Bedroom layouts should consider how much spare room is required for dressing, making the bed, cleaning under it, and in front of the closet. Storage cabinets must be large enough to accomodate the "big" items.

"Family Housing Handbook" emphasizes that all the factors within a home should be considered, including storage areas, (seasonal and everyday), home business centers, clothes care areas, halls, doors and stairs, entryways and basements. Floor plans should be evaluated before final decisions are made.

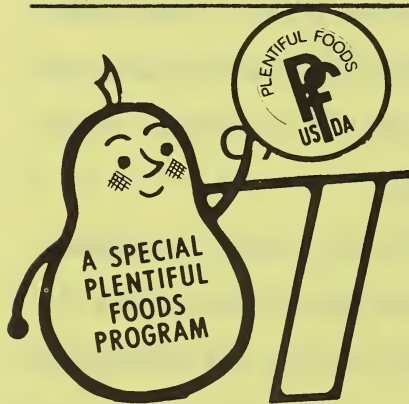
Entryways and basements present different problems for the would-be homeowner (or soon-to-be one) but the stairway layouts and dimensions in the handbook are so complete that it offers a multitude of practical solutions. Drives and carports and garages are figured according to the angles and arrangement of the site.

Copies of the book "Family Housing Handbook" are available by sending \$2.00 to the Midwest Plan Service, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010.

ECOLOGICALLY THINKING —

Ring around the bath tub? That's the hard water that allows the soap to form a curd. It's what makes the familiar ring which is deposited on clothing during washing. Of course, if you have soft water, soap is the best detergent. The use of soap formulations that will wash as efficiently in hard water as phosphate detergents has now been proposed by U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists as a means of reducing water pollution.

The soap's effectiveness in hard water is achieved by the addition of one of several fat-based compounds that act as lime-soap dispersing agents and also as a nonphosphate builder. In the experimental soap formulations, the lime-soap dispersing agent prevents this curd formation in hard water—such as the "ring around the bath tub." In research, when half of the lime-soap was replaced by a detergent builder, it enhanced the efficiency of the soap. Soap formulations with the lime-soap dispersing agent and builder were reported to be about as effective as today's commercial household detergents. In actual tests described by USDA chemists, the lime-soap dispersing agent, used at a level of about 20 percent, gave excellent results in water of 300 parts per million of calcium hardness.



Canned pears are featured on USDA's Plentiful Foods List for October. Pears are a good accompaniment for meat. Serve, cut, side up, filled with cranberry-orange relish to accent poultry entrees.

Want to try a pear shake? Combine in a blender or mixer 2 canned pear halves, 3 tablespoons pear sirup, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cold milk, and 2 to 4 scoops ice cream, depending on thickness desired. Blend until smooth and thick. Pour into tall glass and sprinkle with nutmeg.

COMMENTS & INQUIRIES TO:

Shirley Wagener, Editor of Food and Home Notes, Press Service, 461-A,
Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.
Or telephone (202) DU8-5898 or DU8-5881.